

CCJS 325: Slavery in the 21st Century: Combating Human Trafficking
Spring 2026
Section 0101
Mondays 2:00-4:30pm
LEF 2166

INSTRUCTOR

Professor Morabito

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Office Hours: Mon. and Wed. 9:00-9:50am and 1:00-1:50pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

What is human trafficking and how do we stop it? Slavery was abolished in the United States in 1863. Around the world, similar forms of oppression have been abolished. However, slavery is still a reality. In this course, we will explore human trafficking or modern slavery on an international and domestic level, seeking to understand how the social, economic, and political structures of a geographic location influence the forms of trafficking that are prevalent in that area. This course will define and analyze the human trafficking phenomenon through academic research, domestic and international policies and laws, key modern cases and debates, enforcement strategies and abolition movements.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

After successfully completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand the trafficking of human beings in its historical, legal, economic, political, and social contexts, including how those contexts intersect with systems of oppression and marginalization.
2. Identify the scope of the global problem, different forms of trafficking, and regional trends and practices.
3. Evaluate the multiple layers of human trafficking in order to understand the relationship between supply and demand.
4. Analyze the roles of government, the international community, and individual actors in addressing the problem,

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Stickle, W., Hickman, S., & White, C. (2019). *Human Trafficking: A Comprehensive Exploration of Modern Day Slavery*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage. ISBN: 9781506375038

You may use either the print or electronic version of the textbook. Readings that are not from the textbook will be posted on the course website for you to download.

COURSE WEBSITE

This class uses Canvas (ELMS) for distribution of important course information. I will use it to make announcements to the class, post reading material that is not in your textbook, and update your grades. Go to <http://elms.umd.edu> and log in with your Directory ID and password. You are able to adjust your individual settings to receive email notifications when new content is posted, if you wish; I strongly encourage you to adjust your settings so that you receive email notifications when announcements are posted. Please be sure to check this site

regularly, as you are responsible for knowing the material that I post. If you have any problems accessing ELMS, please email the support desk at itsupport@umd.edu.

GRADING POLICY

Your final grade will be determined according to the following assignment categories:

15% Quizzes (5 total)

15% Active Learning Exercises

25% Midterm Exam

25% Final Exam

20% Group Project (10% paper, 10% presentation)

Important notes about assignments:

1. I do not allow students to resubmit assignments to earn a new grade or return partial credit to a previously graded assignment.
2. I do not allow retakes of exams or quizzes.
3. I reserve the right to adjust the weighting, points, and/or course requirements if necessitated by an emergency as declared by the University.

Final course grades will be assigned as follows:

97-100% A+ 96%-93% A 92%-90% A-

89-87% B+ 86%-83% B 82%-80% B-

79%-77% C+ 76%-73% C 72%-70% C-

69%-67% D+ 66%-63% D 62%-60% D-

59% and below F

Final grades will be rounded up to the next percentage point at the 0.45% threshold. Grades will not be curved or negotiated at the end of the course

COURSE FORMAT

Lectures for this course will be delivered in an in-person format, barring illness or emergencies. There is not an option to Zoom into class, lectures are not recorded for students, and lecture notes/slides will not be posted or distributed under any circumstances. Students are encouraged to exchange contact information with at least one peer so that they have someone to solicit lecture notes from if they miss class. Once the student has obtained notes from a classmate, the student is welcome to reach out to me for further clarification. In addition, please note that students are not allowed to take audio and/or video recordings of class unless they have a specific ADS accommodation, and students are not allowed to take photographs of slides unless given specific permission.

QUIZZES

There will be 5 quizzes given in class to assess your understanding of the lecture and reading material. I will announce what material will be covered on each quiz one week prior to the quiz date. Quizzes will be given during the first 10 minutes of class, so be sure to arrive on time. Students who arrive late will only be given the remaining time to complete their quiz (i.e., if you are 3 minutes late, you will have 7 minutes to complete your quiz); students who arrive more than 10 minutes late will not be allowed to take the quiz. The quiz format may include multiple choice questions, matching, fill-in-the-blank, true/false, and short answer questions.

You may not use any course materials (i.e., your notes, the textbook) while taking the quizzes. All quiz grades will count towards your final grade (i.e., I do not drop any quiz scores).

ACTIVE LEARNING EXERCISES

Active learning is a crucial aspect of this course. Your participation and active engagement in class is not only valued, but essential to your learning. To enhance your understanding of course concepts and help you feel more comfortable with the sensitive and difficult topics in this course, various in-class activities will be assigned as active learning exercises. Active learning exercises are designed to help maximize your success in the course, preparing you for exams and quizzes, as well as giving you hands-on experience working with some of the tools researchers and practitioners use in the study of human trafficking. You are expected to attend class on time and participate in all exercises, such as classroom discussions, written assignments, surveys, worksheets, exit tickets, etc. In addition, at the end of each topic, there will be practice quiz/exam questions to give you an opportunity to demonstrate your readiness to move on to the next set of lectures.

Please be sure to have paper and a pen/pencil with you in class in order to be prepared for these activities, which are not announced in advance. To earn credit for active learning exercises, you must be present in class on the day the activities are assigned. Each activity will be worth a certain number of points, to be announced when assigned, and will be graded for completion. A “complete” assignment is one that answers all parts of the prompt and includes sufficient detail to demonstrate understanding. For example, if you are asked to write a one-paragraph reflection on a video, only submitting two sentences would be considered incomplete and would result in earning less than full credit. There are no makeups for activities, except in cases of excused absences, but your lowest in-class activity score will be dropped.

EXAMS

There are two exams for this course, a midterm exam and a final exam. Each exam will include a combination of multiple choice and true/false questions, for a total of 50 questions. The exams will be based on lecture and reading material, as well as any assigned media.

Midterm Exam: The midterm exam will be given in class during our regular class time on **Monday, March 30, 2026**; you will have one hour to take the exam. You may not use any course materials while taking the midterm. Please be sure to bring a pen or pencil and your University ID to the exam. Please be on time for the exam, as **once the first student has turned in the exam no other students will be allowed to sit for the exam.**

Final Exam: The final exam will be given online on **Thursday, May 16, 2026, from 4:00-6:00pm**. You may use your notes while you take the exam, but I strongly recommend that you study for the exam as if you did not have access to your course material. You may not collaborate on or discuss the exam with anyone, nor may you use AI or other tools to answer quiz questions. The exam will not be cumulative. No exceptions or adjustments to exam times will be made for technical difficulties. I highly encourage you to complete the exam with minimal distractions and a reliable Internet connection. Exams not completed by the deadline will receive a 0.

GROUP PROJECT

This semester, you will work on a project in a randomly assigned group. As a group, you will work to produce an in-depth presentation and paper on human trafficking activity in an identified country. The United States is the only country off limits for this assignment. Detailed information and rubrics will be posted on ELMS. We will discuss the Group Project in class on Monday, February 23, so please make every effort to be in class on that date.

EXTRA CREDIT

Extra credit will be assigned at my discretion and will be given on a class-wide basis.

GRADE DISPUTES

If you have a concern about a grade on an exam or assignment and believe that I should review it, you must submit a written request over email that describes your concern in detail. Upon receiving your email, I may ask you to meet with me in person to further discuss your concern. You have **one week** after the grade is posted to submit a grade dispute.

MISSED CLASSES/MAKEUP POLICY/MISSED EXAMS/LATE ASSIGNMENTS

Makeup quizzes, exams, and assignments will only be given in cases of excused absences. University policy states that excused absences include religious observances, mandatory military obligation, illness of the student or illness of an immediate family member, required participation in university activities, death in the family, and required court appearances. Changes in employment schedules, personal travel, technical/internet problems, etc. do not qualify as excused absences.

The student must notify me in writing **prior** to missing an exam, quiz, or major graded assignment. If you know in advance that you will be absent for an exam, quiz, or assignment due date with an approved absence (you must notify me at least one week prior to the due date), you will be expected to take the exam or quiz or turn in the assignment prior to the exam/assignment due date.

Lectures and Active Learning Exercises: Repeatedly missing lectures is not advised as you may miss active learning exercises, which are not announced in advance. If you miss a class, you must obtain the lecture notes from a classmate. I will not post my lecture notes online, nor will I provide them to students regardless of circumstances. Once you have obtained the lecture notes, I am happy to go over any questions you have during my office hours. Students may, one time per course per semester, provide a self-signed excuse as documentation of a medically necessitated absence from a single active learning exercise. Students must still provide **prior** written notice of their absence before the start of class to be excused from the active learning exercise.

Quizzes and Exams: Makeup quizzes and exams will only be given in cases of excused absences which always require **prior** written notice to the start of the exam or quiz and documentation to determine if your absence was excused. If you miss an exam or quiz and notify me after the start of the exam or quiz, you will **not** be able to reschedule the exam or quiz. Please contact me immediately (before the start of the exam or quiz) to let me know if you will not make the exam or quiz so we can begin the process of rescheduling while you gather

documentation. All makeup exams or quizzes must be completed as soon as you are able to return but no later than one week of the missed exam or quiz. Failure to adhere to these policies will result in a grade of zero for the exam or quiz. Makeup exams will be a different format (e.g., short-answers and essay questions) and contain different questions than the original exam.

Group Project: Due to the nature of the group project, late work is not accepted. However, if you know in advance that a group member will not be able to attend class the day that you have been assigned to present due to an excused reason, please get in touch with me immediately to see if we can adjust the schedule or make other arrangements. Documentation will be required. If a student is ill or has an emergency and misses their group project presentation, prior notification and official documentation are necessary to excuse the student from the presentation and make arrangements for an alternate form of assessment.

I reserve the right to verify all documentation of absences. If you are suspected of fabricating documentation, you will be referred to the Office of Student Conduct.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

On occasion, the University may cancel classes due to inclement weather. If the university is closed on a day that a graded assignment is scheduled to be due or an assessment is scheduled to be given, the graded assignment or assessment will be rescheduled for the next class day that the University is open. If the University opens late and the opening time is after the start time of our class, we will not hold class that day. Please note that the course schedule, including reading assignments, may need to be adjusted as a result of inclement weather-related class cancellations. I will keep you updated via ELMS of any such changes.

ACCESSIBILITY AND DISABILITY SERVICES

I will make every effort to accommodate students who are registered with the Accessibility and Disability Service office (ADS) and who provide me with a University of Maryland ADS form which has been updated for Spring 2026. You must provide me with this form **by February 9, 2026**, in person so that we can discuss how I may best help you. I am not able to accommodate students who are not registered with ADS or who do not provide me with documentation that has been reviewed by ADS. ADS students who are requesting to take their exams at the ADS testing office in Shoemaker Hall need to make arrangements to do so through the ADS website and must provide me with a testing form online **at least one week prior to the exam**; failure to do so will mean that the student must take the exam with the rest of the class. Any student taking an exam at the ADS office is expected to take the exam **on the same day and at the same starting time** as the rest of the class; if you feel that you are unable to take the exam at the same day due to a scheduling conflict (i.e., another class), you must discuss this with me prior to submitting your request to the ADS testing office and submit documentation of your conflict.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVATIONS & ATHLETICS

If you will be observing a religious holiday or will have a University athletic obligation that will cause you to miss class, a quiz, or an exam, please let me know **by February 9, 2026**. If you will be missing an exam or quiz, you will be expected to take it prior to the exam/quiz date. If you will be missing an assignment due date, you will be expected to turn it in prior to

the due date. When you contact me, please let me know which specific course responsibilities you will be missing due to your absence; you are responsible for looking through the syllabus to see which due dates/exam dates/etc. occur on a day you will be absent and to make necessary arrangements.

CLASSROOM EXPECTATIONS/CONDUCT

The success of this class is dependent on our ability as a class to maintain an environment conducive to everyone's learning. As a department and a university, we expect both faculty and students to be prepared for class. We also expect students to adhere to the Code of Student Conduct. Disruptive behavior hinders other students' opportunity to learn and will not be tolerated in my classroom. Disruptive behaviors include arriving late, leaving the classroom repeatedly, making loud and distracting noises, playing music, vaping or similar activities, sleeping, using cell phones or prohibited technological devices, leaving class early, side conversations, speaking without being recognized, and interrupting other students while they are speaking. Disruptive behaviors may result in being asked to leave the class and forfeiting any activity points for the day. In addition, this class will cover subjects that may personally affect you, someone you know, or other students; some of the material presented may touch on controversial topics. It is imperative that we maintain an environment where every student feels comfortable in the classroom. Students must treat each other and me with respect, particularly when discussing these topics. No one has the right to attack another's opinion or to attack another member of this class. Students who do not adhere to these policies will be asked to leave class and will be subject to referral to the CCJS Undergraduate Director, the Office of Student Conduct, or Campus Police.

I am committed to making this class a positive experience for all students. You can expect that I will start class on time and not keep you past our end time, that I will be prepared for class with class, that I will make every effort to provide feedback on course assignments within two weeks of the assignment deadline, and that I will stick to the syllabus unless there is an emergency. Please visit www.ugst.umd.edu/courserelatedpolicies.html for the Office of Undergraduate Studies' full list of campus-wide policies and follow up with me if you have questions. All campus-wide policies will be enforced.

TECHNOLOGY POLICY

I will allow the use of laptops or tablets in class for notetaking and class activities. I do not allow the use of cell phones in my classroom. If inappropriate use of technology becomes a repeated infraction, you will be asked to leave class for the rest of the day. I reserve the option to rescind laptop/tablet privileges for the remainder of the course if these problems continue to occur.

EMAIL POLICY

Email is the University's official form of communication. As such, I expect that you will check your email daily to ensure that you receive important announcements relating to this class. In addition, I expect your emails to me to be professional. Please do not use chat-speak in your emails to me. You must email me from your University email address, not a personal email. I do not guarantee a response to emails sent from a non-University email account. Please be sure to include CCJS325 in the subject line of your email, so that I know which class you are in.

Please do not email me through ELMS.

It is important to me to provide timely responses to your emails. I will make an effort to provide a same-day email response to emails received during business hours, Monday-Friday between 9:00am and 5:00pm. I do not respond to emails over the weekend or on holidays and will respond to any emails by 5:00pm the next business day. Keeping these guidelines in mind, if you do not receive a reply from me within 48 hours of when you can anticipate a response, please re-send the email. Before you email me, please check the syllabus and ELMS announcements to see if your question can be answered there (e.g., “what day is the exam?” is answered in the syllabus).

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

I take academic integrity very seriously. The University of Maryland has a nationally recognized Code of Academic Integrity which sets standards for academic integrity for all undergraduate and graduate students. As a student, you are responsible for upholding these standards in your courses. It is very important for you to be aware of the consequences of cheating, fabrication, facilitation, and plagiarism. Some of your assignments will be collected via Turnitin on our course ELMS page; Turnitin is an originality checker that helps me verify the integrity of student work. For information about Turnitin, how it works, and the feedback reports you may have access to, visit [Turnitin Originality Checker for Students](#).

Unless I give explicit permission otherwise, please be advised that you are not permitted to use AI generated content or generative AI tools in this course and doing so will be considered a violation of academic integrity.

In this course, academic dishonesty of any form will not be tolerated. I strongly encourage you to visit <http://shc.umd.edu/SHC/StudentAcademicDishonesty.aspx> for further information about the Code of Academic Integrity, what constitutes academic dishonesty, and the Office of Student Conduct. If you are ever unclear about acceptable levels of collaboration, when and/or how to cite, or what actions I consider a breach of academic integrity, please ask me!

NOTICE OF MANDATORY REPORTING

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible University Employee,” and I must report all disclosures of sexual assault, sexual harassment, interpersonal violence, and stalking to UMD’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of UMD’s confidential resources, such as [CARE to Stop Violence](#) (located on the Ground Floor of the Health Center) at 301-741-3442 or the [Counseling Center](#) (located at the Shoemaker Building) at 301-314-7651. You may also seek assistance or supportive measures from UMD’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 301-405-1142, or emailing titleIXcoordinator@umd.edu. To view further information on the above, please visit the [Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct's](#) website at ocrsm.umd.edu.

COURSE EVALUATIONS

At the end of the semester, you are encouraged to submit a course evaluation through Student Feedback on Course Experiences to help faculty and administrators improve teaching and

learning methods. All information submitted to Course Experiences is confidential. Campus will notify you when Student Feedback on Course Experiences is open for you to complete your evaluations at the end of the semester.

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Class Schedule and Reading Assignments

Week	Date	Lecture Topics	Reading Assignments
1	1/26	UMD Closed for Snow	Syllabus
2	2/2	Introduction to Human Trafficking Laws and Legislation	Chapter 1 pp. 16-26
3	2/9	Sources of Information Human Trafficking in the United States	2020 TIP selection
4	2/16	Victims and Traffickers Quiz 1	Chapters 4 and 5
5	2/23	Slavery Footprint Group Project Introduction	No reading
6	3/2	Prostitution and Sex Trafficking Quiz 2	Chapter 6
7	3/9	Sex Trafficking	Chapters 7 and 8
8	3/16	No Class – Spring Break!	
9	3/23	<i>Sound of Freedom</i>	No reading
10	3/30	Midterm Exam (in person)	
11	4/6	Labor Trafficking	Chapters 9 and 10
12	4/13	Child Soldiers Quiz 3	Chapter 11
13	4/20	Organ Trafficking Quiz 4	Chapter 12
14	4/27	Forced and Child Marriages Prevention and Responses Quiz 5	Chapters 13 and 14
15	5/4	Group Project Presentations	

FINAL EXAM (online): Thursday, May 14, 2026, 4:00-6:00pm Eastern Time